(iv) excise duty on compact discs be waived as in the case of prerecorded cassettes in order to deprive manufacturers of pirated CDs of an unfair price advantage;

(v) extending the benefits of Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to cinema halls and multiplexes set up within the country;

(vi) benefits of new Section 80HHF, announced in the Budget for 1999-2000, to be made applicable to proprietors, individuals etc. engaged in the export of entertainment software as well and with retrospective effect from 01.4.89.

Price hike of Employment News

†ll71. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that price of weekly publications Employment News and Rozgar Samachar has been increased from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 with effect from 6th February, 1999;

(b) Whether it is also a fact that the said weekly is mainly read by the unemployed persons; and

(c) If so, the justification of the said price hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) Yes.

(b) It is also read by the unemployed youth.

(c) The price has been hiked to offset production cost.

Closure of song and drama division at Manipur

1172. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Song and Drama Division at Manipur is going to be closed;

(b) by when the vacant post of Assistant Director in the Division will be filled up; and

(c) the reasons for keeping the post vacant for so long?

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.